On page 2 of the Office Action, claims 1 – 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0019932 to Toh et al. (hereinafter "the Toh et al. application"). Applicant is traversing this rejection.

The present application was filed on 13 AUG 2001. The Toh et al. application was filed 15 OCT 2001. Whereas the present application predates the filing date of the Toh et al. application, the Toh et al. application, on the basis of its filing date alone, is not prior art.

Applicant realizes that the Toh et al. application claims priority to several prior applications, and that the 35 U.S.C. 102(e) date of the Toh et al. application is its effective filing date, i.e., the filing date of a prior application. However, the Toh et al. application is entitled to the date of the prior application only if the prior application properly supports the subject matter used to make the rejection in compliance with 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph (see MPEP 706.02(f)(1), section I, paragraph (B)). Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that if the Examiner wishes to apply the Toh et al. application in a section 102(e) rejection, that the Examiner show that the prior application properly supports the subject matter used to make the rejection, in compliance with 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph.

Nevertheless, claim 1 provides a method for providing a switch user functionality in a server-agent environment in an information technological (IT) network. The method includes, *inter alia*, generating a switch user (SU) certificate using public-key cryptography upon receiving a request to switch from a user account presently used on a node to another user account.

The Toh et al. application discloses a use of a certificate (para. 0041). However, the certificate is used to associate a user with an access system, and is further used in conjunction with a private-public key pair (para. 0041). That is, the certificate is being employed to set up a secure network connection. The Toh et al. application does not describe the certificate as being generated upon receiving a request to switch from a first user account to a second user account.

Whereas the Toh et al. application does not disclose the certificate as being generated upon receiving a request **to switch from a first user account to a second user account**, the Toh et al.

application does not disclose generating a switch user (SU) certificate using public-key cryptography upon receiving a request **to switch from a user account presently used on the node to another user account,** as is recited in claim 1. Thus, the Toh et al. application does not anticipate claim 1.

Claims 2 – 12 depend from claim 1. By virtue of this dependence, claims 2 – 12 are also novel over the Toh et al. application.

Claim 13 is an independent claim and includes a recital similar to that of claim 1, as discussed above. Accordingly, for reasoning similar to that provided in support of claim 1, Applicant submits that the Toh et al. application does not anticipate claim 13.

Claims 14 - 24 depend from claim 13. By virtue of this dependence, claims 14 - 24 are also novel over the Toh et al. application.

Claim 25 provides for a system for managing objects in an information technological (IT) network. The system includes, *inter alia*, a user account switching component performing a requested switch provided that a SU certificate is correct.

For reasoning similar to that provided in support of claim 1, Applicant submits that the Toh et al. application does not disclose **switching a user account on the basis of a SU certificate.** As such, Applicant also submits that the Toh et al. application does not disclose a user account switching component performing **a requested switch provided that a SU certificate is correct,** as recited in claim 25. Thus, the Toh et al. application does not anticipate claim 25.

Claims 26 - 29 depend from claim 25. By virtue of this dependence, claims 26 - 29 are also novel over the Toh et al. application.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the section 102(e) rejection of claims 1 – 29.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that all claims presented in this application patentably distinguish over the prior art. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests favorable consideration and that this application be passed to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,
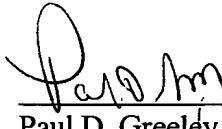
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